



FORT COMPLEX FIRE INFORMATION

Monday, August 13, 2012

Yreka, CA - Significant progress was reported on the Lick Fire yesterday, as crews completed fire line around the perimeter of the fire. Crews will begin to mop-up around the edge of the fire today and monitor the interior portions for any fire flare-up in the unburned fuels. The Hello Fire became very active as expected around 2:00 p.m. yesterday and fire crews utilized helicopters dropping water and 3 large air tankers dropping retardant to slow the spread of the fire. Crews will be spending the night close by in a “spike-camp” with minimal amenities to monitor the fire and get an early start today by minimizing the travel time to and from the fire from the main fire camp (Incident Command Post) located at Cantrall-Buckley County Park near Ruch. The Goff Fire also increased in size during the peak of the burning period (after 2:00 p.m.) and has reached California State Highway 96 near the community of Seiad.

Another hot and dry day was experienced by fire crews yesterday assigned to suppress the fires that make up the Fort Complex. Of greatest concern was the extremely low relative humidity (the amount of moisture in the air) values. Field reports were coming in with measurements from 12 to 13%. Fire managers become concerned when readings are below 20%. A wind shift and an increase in wind gusts are expected later today which could increase challenges for fire fighters. A remote automated weather station (RAWS) will be installed today near the Goff Fire to provide fire managers with spot weather forecasts that will more accurately reflect conditions and expected fire behavior. An Incident Meteorologist has been ordered to further predict future weather conditions to ensure the safety of firefighters on the ground. A smoke monitoring plan is also being developed for the Goff Fire.

Public Meetings are planned for the next two evenings to present current fire information and discuss fire suppression tactics and strategies. Tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the fire station in Seiad, the Incident Commander Norm Walker and the new Happy Camp/Oak Knoll District Ranger Tom Mutz will present fire updates and show current fire perimeter maps to the public. Tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. at the Upper Applegate Grange Hall (#839), a similar presentation will be made to interested members of the community on the Hello and Lick Fires, south of the Applegate Lake.



Klamath and Rogue Rive national forests CLOSURES: Please refer to the closure orders and corresponding maps for a detailed road, trail and area closure description on inciweb.org/incident/3117

Fort Complex Fire Overview:

Size: 1,787 acres

Date Started: 08/05/2012

Cause: Lightning

Percent Contained: 10%

Resources: 10 engines, 5 water tenders, 2 dozers, 20 hand-crews, 6 helicopters

Injuries to Date: 2, with other minor injuries (bee sting, poison oak, dehydration)

Impacts: Smoke impacts expected to the Applegate Lake recreation area and Klamath River communities.

Total Personnel: 616

| Fire | Location | Size |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| Goff | Klamath NF – Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District | 965 acres |
| Lick | Rogue River-Siskiyou NF – Siskiyou Mountain Ranger District | 357 acres |
| Hello/Fruit | Rogue River-Siskiyou NF – Siskiyou Mountain Ranger District | 465 acres |

CAUTION:

- Please use care when driving **Highway 96 between I-5 and Happy Camp, CA** and watch for firefighters working in this area (the Goff fire). Also drive carefully on **Upper Applegate Road, OR** as both fire aircraft and fire vehicles are moving in this area to support the Lick and Hello fires.
- Smoke is visible in the Klamath River Valley near Seiad, Happy Camp and Hamburg. Smoke is also expected from the Lick fire at the south end of Applegate Lake and from the Hello Fire.
- The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is open. **PCT access trail closures are in effect:** Please check Inciweb (<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3117/>) or contact Fire Information if you plan to be near these areas.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS:

Fire restrictions have been implemented on both the Klamath and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests. In addition, certain road and trail closures have been implemented on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Forest visitors are reminded to check the Forest websites at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath/> or <http://www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-river-siskiyou/> or with a Forest Service station for local conditions.

FIRE INFORMATION:

For additional Fort Complex fire information, call the fire information line at **530/841-4597**.